Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04046 281456Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------112025 281457Z /45
O R 281428Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3691
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4046

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, SY
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

REF: STATE 148797

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI JUNE 28 TO DELIVER POINTS REFTEL. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT I HAD NOT MADE PARALLEL DEMARCHE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, DAOUDI SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING OUR MESSAGE TO ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT ASSAD AND OBTAIN PRESIDENT'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WE HAD POSED.

2. DAOUDI SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT CAPABLE OF DELIVERING AUTHORATATIVE SYRIAN ASSESSMENT, BUT AS PRELIMINARY ANSWER, HE COULD CONFIRM THAT SYRIN CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON HAD HEIGHTENED OVER PAST FEW DAYS. HE WISED US TO KNOW THAT PRESIDETN ASSAD HAD BEEN URGING ALL SIDES TO REMAIN CALM SO THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE NO PRETEXT TO MAKE A MOVE IN THE AREA. SYRIA, DAOUDI CONTINUED, CONSIDERED ISRAEL TO BE THE MAIN FACTOR BEHIND THE CONTINUING TROUBLES IN SOUTHER LEBANON. THE PRESIDENT,

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HE REPORTED, WAS WORKING WITH ALL FACTIONS AND URGING THEM TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ISRAEL'S DESIGNS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON; ANY CHANGE INMCNEASY EXISTING SITUATION IN SOUTH COULD LEAD TO FURTHER ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST ARAB TERRITORY.

3. I TOLD DAOUDI THT OUR CURRENT IMPRESSION WAS THAT

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CHRISTIAN MILITIA LACKED CAPABILITY AT THIS TIME TO MOUNT ANY MAJOR OFFENSIVE OPERATION WITH THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND ADDED OUR VIEW THAT AGGRESSIVE ISRAELI ACTION ON THE BORDER APPEARED UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF PRIMIN BEGIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE TOOK NOTE OF THESE POINTS BUT REITERATED SYRIAN CONCERN REGARDING ISRAELI INTENTIONS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD.
PELLETREAU

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Type: TE
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